



Solid Copy

The International CWops Newsletter

January

2015

Issue No. 60



Elecraft PX3 mini-Panadapter

CWops "CWT"

Every Wednesday

Regular Tests: Full Speed

Start times: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (+1)

1-hour each session

Exchange: name/number (members)
name/SPC (non-members)

CWops "neighborhood"

Look for CWops on 1.818, 3.528, 7.028,
10.118, 14.028, 18.078, 21.028, 24.908, 28.028,
50.098

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President's Message

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope your 2015 turns out to



be a healthy and enjoyable year. This begins my second term as president. It seems like the first term went by in the blink of an eye. I want to express my grateful thank you to everyone who helped to

make the last two years so successful.

To Rick N6XI, thanks for taking on *Solid Copy*, making it your own, and doing a splendid job. To Hank W6SX, my deep appreciation for your enthusiasm and leadership in making CWT a popular weekly on-air event. To John K1ESE, you have done a terrific job with QTX and the results speak for themselves. Dean NW2K, your effort and

[continued on next page]

enthusiasm with CW Open is contagious. And finally, to Will WJ9B, and Jerry AC4BT, my CW Academy co-managers, thank you for helping to organize a truly unique service in today's ham radio environment. And to the more than two dozen CW Academy advisors, this program could not succeed without your dedication and skill.

We have a new CWT manager. Hank W6SX gave it his all for two years, as he promised, and is passing the baton. I am very pleased to announce that Rich VE3KI will be our new manager. Those of you who participate regularly in CWT know that Rich is always there giving out his "RICH 783" CWT exchange. Rich is also our eastern Canada ambassador. He'll be busy. He'll need our cooperation and support. So let's give it to him.

Some news on the CW Academy home front: Our new semester will be underway shortly. And we have a record number of signups (see the CW Academy section). We need more of you to become advisors because our backlog is still one year out. We have over 60 signups already for Jan-Feb 2016! In addition to our regular advisor program and orientation, Jack W0UCE has pioneered an associate advisory role where one can learn the ropes working alongside an experienced advisor and then take on a group afterward. Our Level 1, 2 and 3 programs are now very well structured and we have a full plate of resources for our students on our website. Also, we will soon have a standalone version of Morse Trainer that can be used without Internet access.

For the second year in a row, CWT participants who have achieved certain levels of participation points will receive bronze, silver and gold medallions. And, for the first time, QTX participants who have achieved various levels of points will receive bronze, silver and gold QTX Achievement medallions. There will be at least four more customized service award plaques given to CW Academy advisors who have completed the training of six semester groups. And for the first time, we will be awarding the highest service award plaques for those who have trained over 12 semester groups.

The 2015 CW Open is scheduled for September 5, the first Saturday in September. This will be its permanent schedule – first Saturday in September of each year. If half of our members participated in CW Open, we would double the number of participants and more than double the amount of fun. Please consider participating in at least one CW Open session. Each is four hours long and they are separated by several hours. Trophies and plaques are awarded to winners in each of the three sessions, and to winners of overall aggregate scores. And these awards are given to winners in IARU regions 1, 2 and 3. So it is more of a level playing field each time.

If you are a rag chewer and a regular poster of QTX points each month, consider trying one or more sessions of CWT. John K1ESE and Bill N5IR, for example, have become frequent CWT participants. And if you are a regular CWT player, consider having at least one 20 minute or longer QSO per week, then post your 4 or 5 point result on QTX each month. A little cross-pollination is good for us all.

This year, during the weekend of June 6, we will again have our CW Enthusiasts Weekend near Washington, D.C. It is open to all CW enthusiasts, so spread the word. We get an amazingly low room rate at a first-rate hotel near D.C. We have a great pizza feast that Friday night followed by a wonderful brunch at N3JT's house the next morning. And on Saturday night we all get together for a great dinner. During the day, we can go our separate ways and explore parts of Maryland, D.C. and Virginia. We can also visit with one another at the hospitality suite in the hotel. It is very low key and a great way to get to know other CW folks.

We will again have a CWops booth at Dayton in May, near the Begali booth, I'm sure. If you plan to be at Dayton, please let me know. We usually get together for dinner Thursday night, and take turns staffing the booth on Friday and Saturday.

Let's make 2015 a great personal year and a great year for ham radio and CWops.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the Editor



Publication Schedule

Apologies to the gang for the late publication of *Solid Copy* this month. First, I gave everyone a few extra days during the December holidays. (That wasn't pure altruism as I anticipated some delays on my part as well.) Then we decided to hold off for another few days in order to include final 2014 award scores, a very good idea. Then, my own ambitions ("Just do it all!") got further in the way, resulting in this first issue of 2015 being a full week late.

But maybe later is better?! During the email discussions about the January issue, we realized that the year-end results aren't the only ones that suffer from an end-of-month publication date. We keep monthly totals of many operating achievements and it has been somewhat anti-climactic each month to read stale results that, in many cases, have already been reported via the email reflector. So the question arose, "How about moving the publication date to somewhere in the middle of the month?" I heard no objection from the small group conducting the discussion but thought I would ask the readers (We do have some readers out there, no?) what they think about *Solid Copy* coming out around the middle of each month. The deadline for member submissions to column editors would be during the first week of each month, the columnists would send their material to me (early?) in the second week and the newsletter would appear before the 15th. Deadlines would still be somewhat variable based on weekends, holidays and your editors' personal lives but would be announced in advance each month. What do you think? Please let me know at rick@tavan.com or via the reflector.

Kudos to Secretary Jim N3JT for submitting his January column using the *Solid Copy* style template! That saves me a lot of time changing fonts and paragraph characteristics. For a copy of the template, follow the link on the Web site newsletter page, <http://www.cwops.org/newsletter.html>. Please use it if you can.

W1RM sent along a note from W1GY quoting an Amateur Radio Newline Report about a 16-year old Indian, Arsh Dilbagi, who won the Voters' Choice Award in the 2014 Google Science Fair. Dilbagi built a device that converts short and long breaths of air into dits and dahs, enabling disabled people to communicate in Morse Code. The announcement did not state if Dilbagi holds an Amateur license [but I suspect so! – Ed.].

New member Bruce W8MHW sent along the following with his membership application: “I put a note of thanks to W9AJR and K5UO (who was W9BNL at the time) in the comments section of the application. In 1953 we were all in a Boy Scout troop in Evansville, IN and John W9FHA and I wanted to get our Communications Merit Badge. Mike and Dave were a year older and were the code teachers for the troop – they were hams at the time. John and I went ahead and got our licenses in 1954 as a result. Today the four of us are still in touch regularly! All of us are CW operators!”

Recent CW Academy graduate Dave KC1APK in Vermont passed along the following appreciation: “I just wanted to take a moment to thank you [K6RB] and Barry Fluxe K8QI for the great support I received from CWops and CW Academy. This was a fantastic opportunity and made getting on the air much easier! After a couple of months I’ve been able to make 140 contacts! This would not have been possible without CW Academy. Thanks again !!!”

That’s all from the Editorial Desk this month. Happy New Year to all and I hope to work you on the CW bands in 2015.

73,

Rick N6XI

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From the Secretary

For those who have not yet paid 2015 CWops dues, please note that it’s time to submit your \$12 for the year, or \$50 for five years or \$100 for life membership.

Go to the www.cwops.org website, click on PAY DUES. January 15 is the final date for paying 2015 dues. After that, membership is suspended. Check out the Bylaws on our website for the rules.

For everyone, please give thought to two issues. First, if you have worked somebody twice who is CW proficient at 25 wpm or faster and you would like to nominate him or her for membership, please do it! The form is easy to complete and is located at <http://cwops.org/members/nominationsignup.html>. The login is telegrapher and the password is morse8. Before you fill out the form, ask the nominee if he or she is interested. Give reasons, such as our CW Academy program, which trains newbies and returning operators, helping them to achieve the CW skills they need. We also have weekly and annual CW on-air activities. And our *Solid Copy* newsletter is one of the best of its kind around!

You may want to visit the Status page on our website for current membership nominees. <http://cwops.org/members/status.html>. Again, login is telegrapher and password is morse8. Do it periodically to see if somebody you know is nominated and needs an additional sponsor. To sponsor somebody already nominated, click on and fill out the form at <http://cwops.org/members/additionalsponsor.html>.

Second, we always look for organizations or individuals who need help in learning CW. If you know of a club or group that needs financial assistance with code oscillators, keys, training materials, etc.,

let us know. We can help.

That's all for now. Renew, nominate and sponsor! Best wishes for 2015! CW forever!

Jim, N3JT
Secretary, CWops

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News & Notes

Jerry AC4BT

This is a column where members can report their activities, happenings and achievements, both radio-related and personal. Please send brief notes to Jerry AC4BT at jweisskohl@gmail.com

Rob K6RB: I have been using an Array Solutions Eight Pak antenna switch for almost three years now. The switch is mast mounted just above the top of the tower and feeds eight lines to eight different antennas. There are two radio ports (Radio 1 and Radio 2) that provide the connections for a pair of coax runs back to the house. From mast switch to house, there is about 175 feet of coax. The switch is controlled by an in-shack controller where you can manually or automatically select among the eight antennas for Radio 1 and Radio 2. You cannot connect both radios to the same antenna (thank goodness).

Control of the switch is done via CAT 5 cable from controller to switch (also about 175 feet). Over the three years I have had several instances where the control stopped working. Sometimes it would work manually but not automatically (remotely). The controller is linked to band decoders on both K3s via a LAN called ShackLan. When either K3 is band switched, the Eight Pak follows the change within less than a quarter of a second.

Each time there was a failure it turned out to be some issue with the CAT 5 cable. CAT 5 has four twisted pairs, and these are pretty slender wires. The Eight Pak has four lines – two for the ShackLan, one for common, and one for +12 volts. I paralleled the pairs at the switch and controller creating four lines out of eight. But, for most of the 175 feet, the currents were carried on eight separate twisted-pair lines. What finally helped to stabilize the operation was making a splice at the bottom of the tower (100 feet from the house, 75 feet from the switch) and paralleling the wires at that point, too. This decreased the resistance just enough that I no longer ran into issues where the signal getting to the switch was on the cusp.

I may, at some point, replace the CAT 5 with a 4-conductor control cable. That would ensure low resistance end to end. However, there may be some benefit from the twisted pair CAT 5 in keeping RF out of the controller/switch environment.

Jean FG8NY: I operated the Special call TO10RR from November 2nd through November 16th 2014 in celebration of the 10th edition of the Route du Rhum Yacht race between Saint Malo, France and Pointe a Pitre, Guadeloupe. In the spirit of CWops, I operated only CW!

At the end of the event I logged 1750 QSOs operating as available, while not engaged in other boating activities. Below is the beautiful QSL card published for the occasion which is currently at

the printers. All confirmed QSOs will be sent out as soon as we receive the cards back from the printers.



Kjell SM5CCE: Some weeks ago, my 30-10 Meter Beam stopped working on 30 and 20 with very high SWR. This is a Cushcraft A3 extended with a dipole for 30. It is close to 30 years old and has worked fine. I suspected that a trap had gone bad. It is on a crank-up tilt-over Tower so it can easily be reached from the ground.

I started measuring the traps for resonance and found no problem with the ones on one end of the beam. So, it must be those at the other end. I raised the Beam up again and a short test showed that it was working again, but only for a few days! Then the same problem reappeared. So the other end of the beam elements was tested, and there I found a trap on the driven element that did not show any resonance at all.

Nothing suspicious could be seen from the outside, but when I took away the plastic end caps of the trap I could see that the plastic insulator at the open end was partly melted! Inside I found a wasp, partly burnt to ashes, which shorted the trap and obviously had got so hot that it melted the insulator! After some scraping and washing I put everything back together again and, sure enough, the problem was solved!

Just a few days ago, my 2-element 40m 40-2CD Cushcraft beam stopped working. That was after a severe storm that also took down my 160m inverted L. I have not yet taken it down because the weather at this time of the year has not been inviting for antenna work to say the least. But I have checked it with binoculars and can see that there are no missing parts. So the story has a continuation!

I must say that after 30 years of service I am very satisfied with the Cushcraft beams.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL CWOPS.

Bob K6NV: My 160 meter antenna came down and came to rest with the wires tangled in some tree branches about 60' up. It appears one of the support ropes broke. The wire is, however, intact and I can make it work by forcing it through the tuner. My 160 meter signal will be compromised for a while until I have a chance to get the antenna back up properly.

I just switched logging programs from Writelog to N1MM+, so please be patient if I make mistakes as I am still learning the program. The more I use N1MM+, the more I find I really like it!

I've upgraded my station rig to a K3 from my trusty FT-1000MP. (The MP is pretty loaded and now for sale - contact me if interested.)

Andy HB9CVQ: My Steppir DB18E still has a "winter" problem on 40. In position 180 deg. (JA) tuning works fine but not in the NORM (USA) position. Pointing to NA is now done in reverse mode while rotating the antenna mast.

My mobile experiments are making big progress. I now have three antenna systems, which can be used one at a time, connecting directly to the metal car roof construction with center, direct grounding.

Antenna 1 is a ATAS-120 (40 to 6m, modified). Antenna 2 is from DJ0HV www.qrz.com/db/dj0hv, a big homemade screwdriver antenna. Antenna 3 is big mono-band coils (originally built by HB9BCG). The Radiators are 1.3m, 1.9m and 6m (stationary mobile). The antenna capacitance of the radiators in place and stray effects (monoband coils) have been measured. Now combinations of radiators with needed coil inductance can reasonably be predicted for resonance on each band.

Different tuning procedures have been tested. Generally one needs to understand the efficiency of good mobile antennas which may be only 25% to 30% on 40m, 5 to 8 % on 80 meters and on 160m only about 1%. So on 160 meters, 100W only produces a QRPP signal of about 1W!

My testing motivation is to improve my signals (stationary mobile when QRV in CW from HB0 Liechtenstein). While driving I exclusively operate CW. Better signals will allow me to listen and work CW without the use of headphones.

Allen WA8IWK: The University of Michigan College of Engineering (my son is a senior) posted this very cool photo on their website last week in honor of finals week at the University of Michigan....

University of Michigan College of Engineering WWI Radio Communications Exam



Go Blue!!

No...I am not in this picture. :))

Mac NN4K: CWops at the Stone Mountain Hamfest, Stone Mountain, GA.

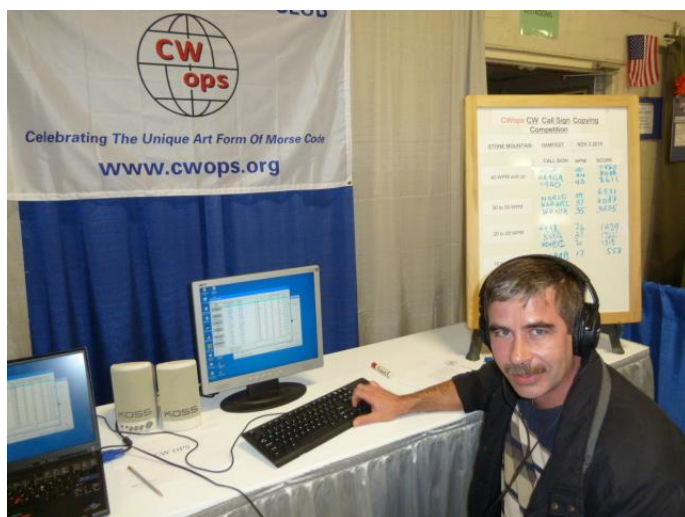
On November 2, 2014 the CWops Call Sign Copying Competition was set up at the Stone Mountain Hamfest (Atlanta, GA area). There was a lot of interest among some of the attendees in wanting to learn or improve their CW skills. That is a perfect fit for what CW Academy can provide and several said they were going to sign up for a class. They were amazed that the waiting time is so long and wanted to get on with the process sooner. That means we really need to get more Associate Advisors and Advisors enlisted in order to meet the need.

The Competition was a lot of fun and by far had the most competitors compared to three previous hamfests. Several CWops members joined in the fun. We were pleased to meet Roman RX3AAA who visited the exhibit and in fact made the highest score. He posted a speed of 49 wpm and a score of 11,600 as measured by the RUFZXP program. Jim Stafford W4QO did well, too and he was nominated for CWops membership following the hamfest. It is a pleasure to welcome Jim to our membership and his new CWops number is 1366. He has been active in recent CWTs. Pictures of Roman and Jim are shown below.

CW is forever fun!



Jim Stafford W4QO CWops Nr 1366



Roman RX3AAA scored 49 wpm

Masumi JA3AVO: Now it's cold in Japan, but we are well. Last November the band condition between JA & US East Coast was very good.

Nov.13 23:07UTC W1AW/1 RI 17m CW

19 00:20 W1AW/4 FL 15m CW

30 22:19 W4KLY GA 15m CQWW-CW

30 22:50 K4JPD GA 10m CQWW-CW

We received original licenses of reciprocal licenses & documentations of XR0YJ operation from RCCH: <http://www.nakade.jp/ce0y.htm>. We will leave Japan on Jan. 8 for Santiago via Dallas.

QRV as XR0YJ 10-16 Jan.

Jim W4PRO – Silent Key

Ron W8RJL passes along the sad news of the passing of Marion Arthur (Jim) Wise W4PRO on December 31, 2014. He was a resident of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Marion was born in Fostoria, Ohio and served in the USAF 13 Bomb Squadron as a gunner in the Korean War. He retired from NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA where he was involved in the space program. In later years he served as a docent at the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach, VA and worked with Habitat for Humanity in Smithfield, VA. He was a member of many organizations, but ham radio was his passion.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 10th at 11 a.m. at the West Neck Village Hall, 2580 Signature Drive, Virginia Beach, VA. A graveside service will be held at Arlington Memorial Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to be given to the Wounded Warrior Project at the following website: [woundedwarriorproject.org]

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Keys and Keyers Survey

by John W. Thompson MD (ret) K3MD

I would like to thank you all for your replies to my survey. The sample was limited to the CWops I personally know or have worked several times, and is therefore skewed a bit. Results are in no particular order. If there was more than one vote for a key or keyer in a given category, the number of responses for that key or keyer is noted.

Favorite Key:

Begali Simplex (5)
Bencher BY-1 (4)
Begali Magnetic
Begali Signature
Begali Sculpture Mono
Begali Simplex Mono
Chevron HCD Paddle
Shurr Profi 2
Elecraft Hex Key
N3ZN ZN-9A with OTO of 1/2".
Vibroplex Original
Vibroplex Classic Single Lever
K8RA P-4
Kent (model not specified)
Kent Single Lever Paddle
Palm Radio Mini Paddle

1923 Vibroplex Bug

Second Favorite Key:

American Morse Products Porta-paddle (2)

W8FYO Single Lever (2)

Benchner BY-1

Kent Dual Lever

Kent Single Lever

Kent TP-2

N3ZN ZN-8

Schurr Profi 2

Portable Wabblers (although using a Centennial Vibro keyer this year and it is very nice)

Tom Withers G3HGE's Mag Pad.

W9WBL

N0SA

WBL Vertical Single Lever

Any N3ZN

Least Favorite Key:

Benchner BY-1

Favorite Keyer:

K1EL WinKeyer (standard and USB) (4)

Logikey K5 (4)

Ultra Picokeyer (2)

Homebrew Curtis 8048-chip keyer

KC Keyer – one of the first ones built.

YCCC SO2R Box

microHAM computer/interface

Internal keyer in K3

Internal keyer in IC-781 and Win-Test

Icom internal

MFJ 484C

No preference or MFJ Econokeyer II

Heathkit keyboard

Arduino Nano

Any Curtis 8044 chip based keyer

Second Favorite Keyer:

K1EL WinKeyer (standard and USB) (5)

Logikey K5 (3)

Internal keyer in K3 (2)

Ultra PicoKeyer (2)

HB Curtis Chip

Some nearly identical keyers (Hamgadgets PicoKeyer and Ultra PicoKeyer, CMOS-4, K-3, K-5) have been lumped together. For Begali, if not specified, I assumed simplex dual lever. I included bugs with keying levers, keyboards with keyers. Winkey and Winkey USB have been grouped together.

73,

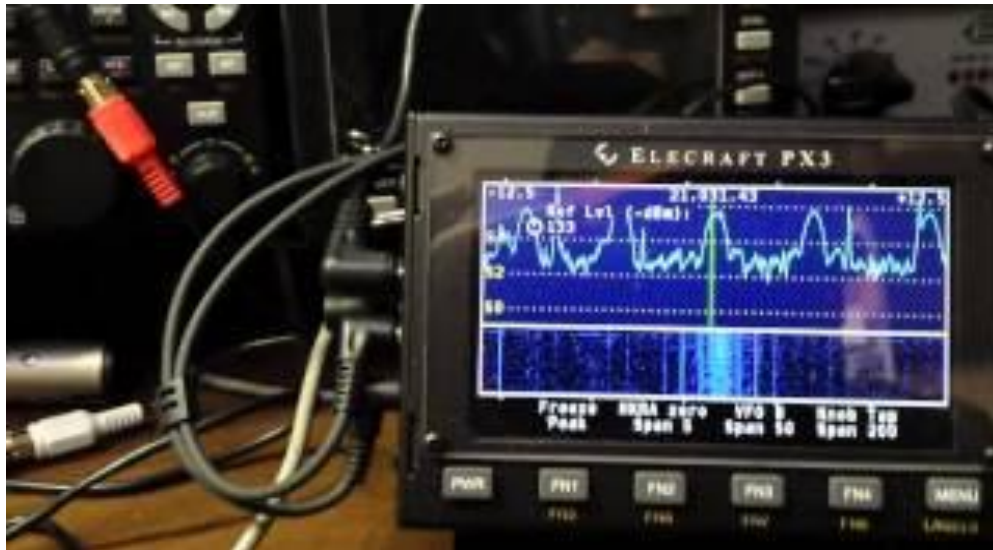
John K3MD

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NX6T Contest Site

by Dennis Vernacchia N6KI



N6KI participates in CQ Worldwide DX Contest in Single Operator (Assisted) QRP Category using Elecraft KX3 QRP Transceiver with PX3 Panadapter. To view a video, click on the photo.

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How We Were – VE2FK

by Hank W6SX

Claude Duberger VE2FK, CWops 1181, reports:

The first photo is from 1964, I was 19 and my callsign was VE2ALH at this time. Good old days of CW, NC-303 and Viking Valiant. Notice, no mic on the table. At this time only dipoles were used and most of the time on 80 and 40m. I was active on NTS. In the first photo I was practicing my code before passing my second class DOT radio operator exam.



The second photo is in '65, while up north in the Arctic aboard Canadian Coast Guard Ice Breaker D'Iberville/CGSM. How fun it was, paid to play radio! I was VE0MS at this time.



73, Claude VE2FK

Please send YOUR How We Were photos to w6sx@arrl.net

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CW Academy

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT

The January-February 2015 semester is starting the week of January 5. We have a field of 27 active advisors for this semester and a record number of starting students (113); more about that in a moment.

The way the CW Academy is organized, students and advisors sign up by going to their respective tabs on our website (www.cwops.org). They get to those tabs by first selecting the CW Academy tab on the home page. The signup sheets, when submitted, generate an email to the co-managers. The information from those emails is entered into a spreadsheet, line by line, in order of receipt. When we hit 150 signups, we start a new semester spreadsheet.

As we get close to a next semester, we assign the students to advisors based on group level and time zone. This is done early enough so that students whose schedules may have changed can opt out and replacements can be slotted in. The objective is to have each advisor, with a few exceptions, handle groups of up to five students each. Once a semester has started, we do not replace students who drop out.

By inputting signup data in the order they are received, we have a fair means for picking fills to replace students who have had to opt out before a semester begins. We give position priority to students who have already completed a level. So, for example, a student who completes Level 1 has priority for open slots in Level 2; and someone who completes Level 2 has priority for an open slot in Level 3. After those students are placed, we go by the order in which we receive signups. And, finally, students who are not yet licensed are always in standby position. We feel that the service should be provided to students who already have a ticket. Of course, we let unlicensed signups know about that prioritization.

The list that follows is for our next semester (Jan-Feb 2015) as of 22 December. It is possible there may be minor changes before the semester begins. But we wanted to show you how popular this program has become. And we wanted to remind you that we are about 90 students into our Jan-Feb 2016 list, now! So, our program is backlogged over one year deep. We can accommodate more students...if we have more advisors. With a club of over 1000 members, and an advisor corps of about 30, our advisors represent only three percent of us. That is, three out of every 100. I know we can do better than that. The courses are designed to be self teaching. Advisors provide assessment and feedback to the students. That is the secret ingredient to what makes CW Academy way more popular than any online services, such as LCWO or Koch Trainer. That is not to say that LCWO and its ilk are not valuable. They are. But some students thrive best when they learn in a group setting with someone guiding them along the way. So, while you are making New Year's resolutions, consider making one to give CW Academy advisorship a try.

Here are the statistics for the Jan-Feb 2015 semester:

Level 1 - 67 Students

Level 2 - 35 Students

Level 3 - 11 Students

We have 27 total Advisors teaching these 113 confirmed students. Some Advisors are teaching multiple classes as follows:

Jack W0UCE - 3 classes

Rob K6RB - 2 classes

Jerry AC4BT - 3 classes

Ed K6HP - 2 classes

And now, here are the callsign and group level data:

		KK4KTY	1
		AF5PG	1
VE3YYK	1	KU4GU	1
AB1RJ	1	KD0AAA	1
KK4PNS	1	AC0UD	1
K2CPB	1		
KK4STV	1		
NQ8T	1	KK4YFK	1
K4GTF	1	K5AZR	1
K4MIL	1	KC0MYW	1
ND7J	1	KF5TQU	1
N4APR	1	KC6ZEI	1
NY4ZZ	1	WX1WX	1
K0CAT	1	KF5JUO	1
WM4P	1	K5SPP	1
N3DCP	1	KC5ONZ	1
WB3AVX	1	W3GY	1
AD4XJ	1	KF4UPO	1
K3UI	1	NT4H	1
KJ3D	1	AE5KT	1
NY4V	1	KJ4VIB	1
AA4IO	1	AC0XF	1
N5XTH	1	N9WKE	1
N1WWW	1	WB0VHF	1
WB2JIX	1	N5BZA	1

K6GVW	1	AJ4HP	2
WA7TZ	1	KD2FVG	2
KK6DF	1	W8DE	2
N6EW7T	1	VE3NWN	2
AA7F	1	KV4JG	2
W6TN	1	KI4UYA	2
AF7HL	1	VE3FXX	2
W7ND	1	AC2II	2
KF7UJM	1	N1FV	2
KG7EOL	1	NR3P	2
KB0A	1	KF4T	2
KG7MJZ	1	AK4IC	2
AA6MK	1	KK5NA	2
KH7CR	1	W4FLN	2
KH7AX	1	KJ4IOR	2
VK2FPOL	1	K1YM	2
VK2AJD	1	W5CYF	2
VK7NTE	1	K5AUP	2
ZS1SSE	1	W3GXV	2
ZS1ZV	1	NS9V	2
ZS5LH	1	K1NTT	2
M0BDB	2	AB1VL	3
M0MJO	2	NI2F	3
KL3QI	2	KC2ZBZ	3
KM6ZT	2	N4JGD	3
KF7TDF	2	W1HY	3
KK7GGN	2	W2VM	3
W7ZAP	2	NQ6E	3
N6XT	2	W6GJB	3
OH3HUV	2	WR7Q	3
K4ARQ	2	KD7UI	3
NK4I	2	KE6K	3
N2SO	2		
NQ9V	2		
K3OOL	2		

The CW Academy advisor group is very excited about the new semester and the current crop of new and repeat students. As before, our Levels 2 and 3 students are often assigned participation in CWTs, so expect to hear some new calls in January and February. We are going to ask these students to use “name CWA” as their exchanges, so you’ll be able to identify them.

73,

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT

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CWops Tests

by Rich Ferch VE3KI

As Hank W6SX announced last month, he has stepped down as CWT manager after two very successful years. During that time, the CWTs have grown to become a weekly tradition. Participation is at the point where the leading scorers regularly make over 100 QSOs with more than 70 different stations within the one hour period. At the same time, we have seen lots of new folks joining the crowd. The CWTs have been a significant contributor to the growth of CWOps as a whole. We all owe Hank a big thank you for his enthusiastic leadership.

Looking forward, my first reaction on being asked to take over the task was not to mess with a good thing. Let's carry on, all doing the best we can to continue to make the CWTs fun events for everyone who takes part.

Participation Awards

The number of CWTs during the year almost exactly doubled, from 72 in 2013 to 143 in 2014. Despite this increase, as a bonus for 2014 the participation levels required for the gold, silver and bronze medallions were left unchanged: 60 participation points for gold, 40 for silver and 24 for bronze (1 participation point for every CWT you made 10 or more QSOs in, as reported at www.3830scores.com). The final totals are not in yet as I am writing this, but it looks as if there will be close to 120 medallions awarded for 2014.

For 2015, we will be changing the participation levels. There will be 157 CWTs in 2015. Since the number of opportunities to earn participation points has more than doubled over 2013, the participation levels required to earn the awards will also be doubled, at least for stations in North America. For stations outside North America, we will be making some adjustments to reflect the fact that stations in other parts of the world have a harder time making QSOs in CWTs and picking up participation points than we do in North America. This is particularly the case for continents other than Europe (Asia, Africa, Oceania and South America), where simply making 10 contacts in a CWT has often proven to be quite a challenge. With that in mind, here are the new levels we will use for the participation medallions in 2015:

	<u>NA</u>	<u>EU</u>	<u>Other</u>
Gold	120	90	60
Silver	80	60	40
Bronze	50	36	24
min.#QSOs	10	10	5

The last row in the table is the minimum number of QSOs required during a CWT session to earn a participation point for that session.

If you operate from more than one continent, your home continent will be the one that is used to determine the number of participation points required for an award.

For new members, you don't need to be a member during a CWT to earn participation points for that CWT, but you do need to be a CWOps member at the end of the year to be eligible for a medallion.

To get your participation points recorded, simply report your score to 3830scores.com after each CWT. If you use a call sign other than your home call sign, whether that is a club call sign, a special event call sign, a contest call sign or a different call sign used from another location, please make sure that you indicate your home call sign in the "Operator(s)" box in the 3830scores submission form. That will make it easy for us to combine all of your participation points into a single total.

Next month, I'll report on the medallion awards for 2014.

We do the CWTs because they're fun - let's make sure they continue to be fun for everyone.

73,

Rich VE3KI

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CWops Awards

Pete W1RM and Peter W1UU

The Annual Competition Award (ACA) is based on the number of members worked each calendar year. You get one point per member worked, once per year. It resets to zero at the beginning of each year. The Cumulative Member Award (CMA) is based on how many members you've worked since January 3, 2010 on each band and continues to grow in perpetuity. The CWops Award Manager (CAM) software, available at no cost, will help you keep track of your ACA and CMA totals.

Call	ACA	CMA		Call	DX Total		Call	WAS		Call	WAE
AA3B	760	4714		W1RM	139		N5RR	50		W1RM	43
G4BUE	682	1937		F6HKA	120		W1RM	50		OH2BN	40
F6HKA	679	3103		W4VQ	117		W4VQ	50		AA3B	37
W1RM	631	3439		OH2BN	112		F6HKA	50		N5RR	37
VE3KI	631	2962		N5RR	95		W1UU	50		SM6CNN	37
N5RR	564	3304		EA8OM	93		VE3KI	50		EA8OM	36
FG8NY	559	2127		SM6CNN	93		G4BUE	50		F6HKA	36
K6RB	537	2777		AA3B	88		AD1C	49		W4VQ	36
W0VX	520	2119		VE3KI	88		FG8NY	49		KR3E	34
K1ESE	496	1679		EA1WX	87		K6DGW	49		KZ5D	34
F5MNK	471	811		K1ESE	86		GW0ETF	49		G4BUE	34
N1EN	456	1137		G4BUE	85		K1ESE	49		VE3KI	34
DL8PG	455	1614		DL8PG	84		W0VX	49		FG8NY	34
AD1C	451	1630		W0VX	82		F5MNK	49		DL8PG	33
GW0ETF	428	1369		PA7RA	79		K6RB	48		PA7RA	33
W9ILY	395	1943		KZ5D	78		EA8OM	48		W9ILY	32
EA8OM	365	1284		W9ILY	76		KZ5D	48		EA1WX	32
W1UU	338	1588		KR3E	73		NN6T	48		W0VX	31
KZ5D	336	3239		AD1C	73		W6KY	48		K1ESE	31
WB9G	332	888		FG8NY	71		W9ILY	48		NN6T	29
KT5V	315	518		NN6T	67		AA3B	48		N1ZX	28
EA1WX	261	1591		N1ZX	67		DL8PG	48		W1UU	28
NN6T	253	1480		GW0ETF	67		N1EN	48		F5MNK	28
N1ZX	247	870		W1UU	66		WB9G	48		GW0ETF	28
W0EJ	244	608		N1EN	64		SM6CNN	48		AD1C	25
PA7RA	237	1129		F5MNK	61		KR3E	47		N1EN	25
NU7Y	222	310		W6KY	54		W0EJ	47		4Z1UF	21
K6DGW	219	1292		4Z1UF	50		N1ZX	47		K6RB	21
W6KY	208	1573		K6RB	49		EA1WX	46		WB9G	19

SM6CNN	191	2477	WB9G	48	WX7SJ	46	W6KY	16
WX7SJ	181	610	W0EJ	34	K0DTJ	45	G3XLG	10
K0DTJ	162	417	K6DGW	31	PA7RA	44	W0EJ	9
AB7MP	123	183	KT5V	28	NU7Y	44	KT5V	9
W5TM	121	235	K0DTJ	23	KT5V	44	K6DGW	8
G3XLG	119	163	NU7Y	20	OH2BN	42	G0DJA	7
WT2P	104	149	G3XLG	18	AB7MP	37	W5TM	7
OH2BN	45	530	WT2P	14	4Z1UF	36	K0DTJ	6
G0DJA	16	23	W5TM	11	WT2P	34	WT2P	4
N2UU	0	1774	G0DJA	10	W5TM	32		
W4VQ	0	1880	AB7MP	10	G3XLG	30		
KR3E	0	1136			G0DJA	8		
PA4N	0	955						
OK1RR	0	893						
W5ASP	0	893						
PA1FOX	0	5						

73,

Pete W1RM

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New Members

Colin Jenkins KU5B

With great pleasure we welcome the following new members to CWOps:

1373	VE3VGI	John
1374	W4KA	David
1375	K6ZO	Don
1376	AC2KJ	Dima
1377	W5BM	Dan
1378	G3YJQ*	Fred
1379	K8XF	Mike
1380	N6KI*	Den
1381	KA7SPS	Dick
1382	W8MHW	Bruce
1383	NF0N	Mike
1384	W2OR*	Mark
1385	K9MA*	Scott
1386	VE1EJ	Joe
1390	N9NA	John

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of January 6, 2015:

Need Sponsors: W4TY, N9IXD

Invitations Extended: W1MA, K3SEN, W3WHK, K7XC

For more details about nominees and up-to-date status, check the “Members Only” pages on the Website: www.cwops.org.

For information about joining CWops, check the Website under “Membership.”

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QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

QTX is a way of counting conversational CW QSOs. One point is awarded for each QSO of 20 minutes or longer. We have two ways to recognize QTX activities - the QTX Plaque and the QTX Achievement Medal.

QTX Report - 2014 Year End Wrap-up

It's time to look back and finish up QTX in 2014. We'll also look ahead to 2015. Let's start with November.

November Scores:

Things were back up in November for QTX. Twenty stations reported and it was the second highest QSO total for the year.

Here's the QTX Competition result for November 2014.

Call	<u>Nov 2014</u>	
KI4XH	95	872
K5KV	75	571
WB6BEE	71	685
N5IR	64	651
K5LY	54	541
NN6T	49	414
N1ZX	34	347
K4AHO	30	284
N4KS	23	23
KE6OIO	16	142
K6HP	15	61
K6RB	12	65
WA3NZR	9	148
K8QI	8	59
HB9CVQ	8	13
K0DTJ	5	84
IK0IXI	5	58
K6HTN	5	38
JE1TRV	4	73
KC0VKN	3	8

Fred KI4XH is top station in November and has over twice the number needed for a Gold Achievement Metal. Fred has already exceeded the totals for prior years and will be setting a new record.

This month Benny K5KV moves up to second and Don WB6BEE is third. Year to date, Don WB6BEE has a narrow lead over Bill N5IR.

Personal bests in November were reported by K6HP and HB9CVQ. They are coming on strong.

Total QSOs were 585, up a whopping 86 from last month. Reporting stations were 20, up 7 from October.

December Scores:

Here are the totals for December ...

<u>Call</u>	<u>Dec</u>
WB6BEE	98
KI4XH	93
N5IR	93
K5KV	86
K5LY	78
K5YQF	46
NN6T	41
N1ZX	38
K4AHO	32
N4KS	26
K6RB	20
W6JMP	16
KE6OIO	15
WA8IWK	14
WA3NZR	12
K6HP	8
HB9CVQ	7
K0DTJ	4
W5JQ	3
JE1TRV	2
K8QI	2
IK0IXI	2
K6HTN	2
AB7MP	1

This was Don's month. WB6BEE is the December champ. Don is always near the top, but it's great to see him in first place. This was his personal best for the year.

Fred KI4XH slid to second, not far behind. Bill N5IR was in third for December. Benny K5KV took fourth. Rob K6RB had his personal best for 2014 in December as did Ken N4KS and Gene W6JMP. Cecil K5YQF submitted his very first score in December and it was good enough for sixth place.

Total QSOs were 739. That's a new monthly record by over 100. Reporting stations were 24, up 4 from November.

2014 Final Scores

It's all said and done. 2014 is in the record books and our 2014 champion is..... Fred KI4XH. Fred breezed past the old record with an amazing 965 long QSOs. That's nearly three a day all year long. Congratulations, Fred. A suitable plaque will be on its way to commemorate your achievement.

Fred ran away from the crowd early and set a record breaking pace. Keeping up were Don WB6BEE and Bill N5IR taking second and third. Both Don and Bill averaged over two ragchews each day for the year.

Here are the final 2014 standings:

Final Standings

<u>Call</u>	<u>Total</u>
KI4XH	965
WB6BEE	783
N5IR	744
K5KV	657
K5LY	619
NN6T	455
N1ZX	385
K4AHO	316
WA3NZR	160
KE6OIO	157
N4SR	90
K0DTJ	88
K6RB	85
WA8IWK	83
JE1TRV	75
K6HP	69
K8QI	61
IK0IXI	60
N4KS	49
K5YQF	46
W6JMP	43
K6HTN	40
N5RR	34
W5JQ	24
HB9CVQ	20
KC9EE	19
KC0VKN	8
W4VQ	7

K6RQT	6
K3GHH	3
ZS1C	2
AB7MP	1
N1EN	1

Congratulations to all those who kept conversational CW alive and contributed to the QTX program!

QTX Achievement Medals -

This year we started giving Achievement Medals to those who had a remarkable number of QTX contacts. They didn't need to be part of the monthly award program, just turn in their QTX total before the end of the year. And, the winners are...



Gold Metal - 400 QTX points

KI4XH WB6BEE N5IR K5KV K5KY NN6T K1ESE



Silver Metal - 300 QTX points

N1ZX K4AHO

Comparisons:

QTX is going strong as can be seen by these numbers -

2012 - Top Score 545, Participants 23, Total QSOs 1,950

2013 - Top score 725, Participants 36, Total QSOs 4,620

2014 - Top Score 965, Participants 34, Total QSOs 6,155

Thanks to all for your participation in 2014 and looking forward to chatting with you in 2015.

73,

John K1ESE, CWops #792

QTX Manager

QTX – Encouraging Conversational CW

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Upcoming CW Operating Events

Joe Staples, W5ASP

This brief list of operating events is intended to provide members with options for using and improving their CW skills in less intense and more casual on-the-air activities.

The August 2014 issue of *Solid Copy* gave a brief introduction by Jim N3BB to the NCCC Sprint and associated NS Ladder. This month's operating activities feature a full set of the NS Ladder's weekly events. With a rather limited contest schedule for January, this would be an excellent opportunity to get involved in the NCCC program. See the August version of *Solid Copy* for links to the rules and features.

If you happen to get on for ARRL's Straight Key Night set for January 1st from 0000 Z through 2359Z, you may come away with a nostalgic urge to "pound" some more brass. Well, you're in luck. It turns out that there is a group of "mechanical-key" CW operators devoted to just such activities. It is SKCC, the Straight Key Century Club. Among other activities, there is apparently a two hour sprint each month on the fourth Wednesday starting at 0000Z. (Note: The SKCC Sprint was listed in WA7BNM's Contest Calendar for December 2014, but does not as yet appear in the 2015 calendar.) If you think you might be interested, check out their web-site at

<http://www.skccgroup.com/>

The North American CW QSO Party is well known to most CW operators. Arguably the most "fun" of all CW events, it's certainly going to be one of the high points of the month. However, many operators miss out on one of the key features of this contest ... the team competition. What's neat is that there are no distance or club requirements ... just two to five single operator stations combining their scores to give added incentive to the game. Consider gathering up a few other

CWOps and see what happens. Teams should be pre-registered at
<http://www.ncjweb.com/cwnaqpteamreg>

NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 2
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 9
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 16
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 23
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 30
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 10 to 0600Z, Jan 11
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 23 to 2159Z, Jan 25

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